

Where's the party tonight?

A bunch of friends! A glam outfit! A party place! A Chocolate cake! A wholesome spread and lots of presents...that's a complete birthday for anybody! If you want to save your parents' hard work of hiding the expensive showpieces at your house and the endless chore of doing the dishes, read on. GT Journo Swati Mongia of MJMC-I, ASCO, Amity University Noida, presents a compilation of some of the best birthday hot spots in town!

Birthday Hot Spots

Pizza Hut

Pizza Hut is the best place to have a blast with your friends and relatives. It is a place which is not only good for its delicious Italian food but also for its good ambience. The benefit of this place is its reasonable fare and the staff sings a birthday song and makes you stand up on the chair and dodge a delicious ice cream that you need to lick without reaching your hands out. **Cost:** The cost per person is only Rs. 90 with a return gift and the meal.

Natasha Bhattacharya, AIS, Gur-46

Barbeque Nation

This unique restaurant is a hot favourite of my family, we love to celebrate all our birthdays there. It offers a vast range of barbecued items. What makes it special is that a small grill with charcoal burning in it is placed in the center of the table in a depression. All barbecue *kababs* both veg and non veg are served along with various sauces including the 'basting' sauce. So, you get to eat freshly grilled barbecued items. There are various beverages to drink. A full fledged buffet, both veg and non veg is laid out. One can pick from a variety of desserts, too. **Cost:** Rs. 300 and more per person.

Nikita Kumar, AIS Gur -46

Select City-Walk Mall

The Select City-Walk Mall offers the perfect leisure environment for celebrating one's birthday. The mall offers a wide range of destination cafes, trendy bistros, authentic cuisines and fast food restaurants eg. Geoffrey's, KFC, Pizza Hut, food court, etc that offer a variety of cuisines. One can watch movies and enjoy shopping, too. **Cost:** Varies from restaurant to restaurant.

Saniya Sehdev, AIS Saket

Worlds of Wonder

It's a place with a lot of freaky rides that would send a chill down your spine. For all the adventure and thrill seekers this place is complete fun. Food is available at the mall next to it namely Great India Place. **Cost:** Rs. 300 for unlimited rides.

Pranav Chauhan, AIS Saket

The Big Chill Cafe

For all those hoppers who want to go through the divine experience of indulging in Italian cuisine and also dessert which is to die for, this is the place to be. Also served: a wide range of pastas, pizza & grilled dishes that fill you till the nose. **Cost:** Rs. 700 (dish + drink+ dessert)

Pallavi Trikha, AIS Saket

Future Bowl, Essex Farm

Future Bowl is a complete place to celebrate a fun filled birthday party. With activities like bowling, bumper car and a gaming arcade, the place serves as a complete entertainment destination. **Cost:** Variety of offers to choose from, starting from 200 per head.

Siddharth Sharma, AIS Saket

Parantha Combos

A unique place, 'PARANTHA COMBOS' is located at Huda Commercial Complex, Sector-56, Gurgaon. Being typical Punjabis, I am an out and out 'foodie'. When I came across Parantha Combos, I absolutely fell in love with this place because as the name suggests, it serves unimaginable *paranthas* under the sun. You name it and they've got it! And the *chatni* they serve with it, is simply divine. It also arranges birthday



parties. It is my favourite place for celebrating any special occasion. *Khajjooor parantha* with vanilla ice-cream is an absolute must to round off your meal. **Cost:** Approx Rs. 7,000 for a minimum of 20 guests.

Raunak Sood, AIS Gurgaon- 46

Country Club

Celebrating a birthday party here is a completely pleasurable and wonderful experience both for family and friends. Enjoy a wide space with gardens to move around and play. **Cost:** Approx 400 per head.

Preet Bani Alagh, AIS Saket

NIRULAS

This is another pizza joint that is famous for its thin crust pizzas and the yummiest mustard sauce to add more flavour. Besides pizza, they have also ventured into other food items. But Pizza still remains on the top. **Cost:** Rs 170 per head.

Dhruv & Kanishk, AIS Gurgaon-43

BIKANERWALA

This place is a vegetarian's paradise. Different cuisines like North & South Indian, Chinese & continental are all served here. A variety of *chaat's*, snacks and delicious sweets too are on the menu at a very reasonable rate. To make the party more exciting a magician is just a phone call away. After the sumptuous feast you can always end the party with some fun games. **Cost:** A reasonable fare.

Yogen Bharadwaj, AIS 46 Gurgaon

Khaaja Chowk

A good place for children of any age group to have unlimited fun. Mostly recommended for its Italian cuisine and Indian food, it is located at MGF mall (the one with Lifestyle home). **Cost:** Rs.175-400

Malvika Bhardwaj & Iliina, AIS Gur 46



New Age Birthday Celebrations!

A decade or so back, celebrating a birthday party implied a prayer ritual in the morning followed by a family gathering in the evening. While these practices still abound in smaller towns, the larger cities have witnessed a different face of birthday 'bashers.' A birthday celebration among teenagers, especially, is hardly an enclosed family event. Instead, teenagers prefer to go out with a bunch of friends,

generally not including their family members. When asked about celebrating her birthday, *Sunakshi Mohindra* said, "I would like to hang out with my friends in a mall and watch a movie with them on my birthday." *Ashima Bhatnagar* said that she would like to "go to the mall and have some fun with friends" on her birthday. Although there are some adolescents who still like to "stay at home" and celebrate their birth-

day like *Sakshi Kapoor* but most others choose to go out and have a 'blast'. The most common place or rather the 'hottest destination' for celebrating one's birthday these days is the mall in close proximity or multiplexes. A fast catching trend, apparently, is to celebrate one's existence with style, flamboyance and exuberance.

Vasundhra Pahuja and Bhuvan Ravindran, AIS Noida

Are you guilty?

Birthday is an exciting event which each individual celebrates with great pomp and show. In the same manner, I also celebrated my birthday at Mc'Donalds. I got really nice gifts and I had a grand party with everybody. I had a nice time but the next morning when I asked my parents about the ex-

pense of the whole event, I was stunned to hear the amount! I still remember my childhood days when I used to go to the temple to feed the poor. Probably I should consider doing that again and not spend exorbitant amounts and repent later!

Samaksh Jain, Gurgaon-43

Hot Shot B'day Return Gifts

Planned a fabulous party but don't know what to give as a Return Gift? Here are awesome ideas:

■ Don't go overboard in terms of the price of your return gift.

■ Don't make it so jazzy that in the next party you don't have anything better to give.

■ Always keep it simple and interesting.

■ Never forget it's your birthday not theirs.

Some excellent ideas:

Potted plants: Watch your friendship grow as you water it! Approx: Rs 80

Goldfish in a bowl: Just tie-up with an aquarium, and they'll help you with everything.

Gel Pens: Range from Rs 10-50

Portable frame and watch (2 in 1): priced at Rs.70.

Smiley Face Badges & Funny Key Rings-Cost around Rs.15 each, they are easily available in most gift shops.

A quick survey of 10 to 18 year olds revealed some unusual items that would be

just perfect to add that extra glow on your friend's face. "I prefer utility items like stationery over eatables," says a thoughtful *Rachit Jain of AIS Noida*. Quips fourteen year old *Sarvashish Sarkar of AIS Noida*, "Game and music CD's are my favourites." Other teenagers, specially girls, like *Vanika Prakash and Kriti Goyal of AIS Noida* find sunglasses or



even T-shirts with witty quotes 'cool'. Chunky jewellery like earrings, bangles and strings and customized chocolates are a hot favourite of all girls - right from pre-teens to the eighteen year olds. Many students at +2 level

consider return gifts as passé.

For them a lavish party with foot tapping music and loads of fast food and 'zingy' friends would make a great birthday. ●

Malvika Bhardwaj & Iliina Luthra, AIS Gurgaon-46,

Inputs by Vasundhra Pahuja & Bhuvan Ravindran, AIS Noida